GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4709
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
TRADE IMBALANCE BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a dialogue regarding trade imbalance had taken place between India and Bangladesh during the SAARC Summit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Bangladesh has sought permission for direct trading with the North-Eastern States;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) whether the Government has also raised the issue regarding anti-India activities from the soil of Bangladesh?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a)&(b) Yes. On the sidelines of the 14th SAARC Summit, the Chief Advisor and Foreign Advisor to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh met Prime Minster and EAM respectively. The discussions with the Bangladeshi leadership centred on bilateral relations and the SAARC Summit, including addressing concerns of Bangladesh over its trade deficit with India.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes. Government have raised the issue of anti-India activities from the soil of Bangladesh with the Government of Bangladesh. Government of Bangladesh have assured us at the highest level that its territory will not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to India. Government of India have emphasised to them the need for concrete and sustained action towards fulfilling this assurance.